

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 DODE-00

ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 FPC-01 H-02

INT-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8063

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 3183

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, AS, JA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED AUSTRALIAN-JAPANESE JOINT VENTURE TO DEVELOP
NUCLEAR RECYCLING PROGRAM

REF: CANBERRA 3160, STATE 097500

1. SUMMARY. DAILY AUSTRALIAN REPORTED APRIL 30 THAT TOP-
LEVEL OFFICIAL JAPANESE DELEGATION SCHEDULED TO VISIT
AUSTRALIA IN MAY OR JUNE TO APPROACH WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
AND COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SITING
NUCLEAR RECYCLING FACILITY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

2. JOINT VENTURE WOULD INCLUDE URANIUM MINING, PROCESSING,
ENRICHMENT, REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL, AND STORAGE OF
RADIOACTIVE WASTES. END SUMMARY.

3. SENSATIONAL PRESS HEADLINE ANNOUNCED QTE JAPAN PLANS
NUCLEAR JUMP IN WA. END QUOTE.

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4. THE JAPANESE DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY, THE SEMI-GOVERNMENT ELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, THE ATOMIC POWER INSTITUTE, AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE JAPANESE NUCLEAR FIELD. LEADER OF JAPANESE DELEGATION WILL BE KAZUO TAMAKI, A PROMINENT POLITICIAN, WHO REPORTEDLY HAS HAD CONTACT WITH SIR CHARLES COURT, THE WEST AUSTRALIAN PREMIER. COURT APPARENTLY HAS SUGGESTED A MAY OR JUNE MEETING.

5. IT IS REPORTED THAT THE FIRST DELEGATION WILL BE FOLLOWED IN A MONTH BY THE JAPANESE ATOMIC INDUSTRIES FORUM GROUP, WHO WILL CONCENTRATE ON JOINT URANIUM DEVELOPMENT AND LONG-TERM SUPPLY CONTRACTS.

6. TAMAKI IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE OUTCOME OF TALKS CONCERNING STORAGE OF DISSIONABLE WASTE MATERIAL WILL PROBABLY DECIDE WHETHER JAPAN BRINGS THE WHOLE CYCLE TO AUSTRALIA. TAMAKI REPORTEDLY SAID AUSTRALIA HAS SOME GEOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS WHICH WOULD PERMIT SAFE STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTES.

7. THE NUCLEAR RECYCLING PROJECT IS REPORTED TO BE WORTH SEVERAL THOUSAND MILLION DOLLARS. THE JAPANESE ARE PREPARED TO OFFER THE COMPLETE NUCLEAR PACKAGE TO AUSTRALIA AT QTE FIVE TIMES THE COST END QTE OF SECURING AN INCOMPLETE PACKAGE FROM EITHER THE U.K. OR FRANCE.

8. EMBASSY COMMENT. UNUSUAL FEATURE OF PROPOSED JAPANESE VISIT WOULD BE APPROACH TO WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRIOR TO DISCUSSIONS AT NATIONAL LEVEL. MUCH PUBLIC ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO PRESS STATEMENT AND WILL LIKELY GENERATE WIDE CONTROVERSY IN AUSTRALIA.
HARGROVE

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